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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Secret

State Department review completed

No 42

10 August 1972

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Approved For Release 2004/01/15 : CIA-RDP79T00975A022500070001-4

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No. 0191/72
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JAPAN-US: The Tanaka government is likely to face new opposition pressure as a result of leftist action against the presence of large US bases.

The Japanese media are giving heavy coverage to the successful effort on 6 August by leftist demonstrators to prevent US tanks destined for Vietnam from being loaded at Yokohama. Despite rights granted to the US military by the mutual security treaty, the press has portrayed US forces as seeking to defy local law--the convoy did not have a proper road-use permit.

Leaders of the Japan Socialist Party, the largest opposition party, joined with the leader of Japan's largest trade union federation and the leftist governor of Tokyo in promising similar action against US bases on a nationwide scale. Workers at the base where the tanks are overhauled voted not to repair US tanks bound for Vietnam in the future, one of the few times that Japanese workers at US bases have refused to carry out duties for purely political reasons.

The government, already under sharp questioning in the Diet, probably wants to avoid appearing too accommodating to the US on the issue. US and Japanese officials are attempting to break the impasse over how to move the tanks to dockside without further inflaming sentiment against the US military presence.

The government's policy toward US bases in Japan is likely to come under increasing fire in the months ahead as Socialist and other leftist forces shift emphasis from abstract, ideological arguments against the US bases to direct action against specific base irritations. The situation is likely to be aggravated by Socialist strength at the local government level in areas in which the bases are concentrated. As a possible harbinger of things to

come, the Tokyo metropolitan government on 5 August announced it was refusing to extend its contract with the national government to lease to the US the land occupied by Yokota Air Base in Tokyo's suburbs. The contract, which must be renewed annually, expires in February. Tokyo government officials have threatened to take the case to court, if necessary.

Over the longer term, it appears inevitable that elements opposed to the US military presence will seek to exploit such incidents, as well as the increasing Japanese sense of national pride and growing competition for use of Japan's limited land resources, to embarrass the government.

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USSR: The Central Committee conference on 8 August on the harvest reflects the leadership's concern that this year's grain crop will fail to meet both domestic and foreign requirements.

The conference, addressed by Brezhnev, reportedly discussed the progress of the harvest, procurement of agricultural products, a speedup in land reclamation work, and the development of the mixed feed industry. Members of the Politburo, party secretariat, and Council of Ministers, as well as officials of the Central Committee apparatus and editors of central newspapers, attended. Brezhnev's speech was not published.

The gathering of such an array of senior officials at the height of the vacation season indicates unusual concern over this year's harvest. It is estimated to be nine to ten percent less than the harvests of 1970 and 1971, largely because of severe winter weather and summer drought. Such a harvest would be a decided setback to Brezhnev's livestock program that is designed to improve the Soviet diet. This program requires a grain harvest substantially higher than in the last two years. Moreover, the requirements of the livestock program are believed to have already drawn down reserve stocks of wheat to the level considered vital as a strategic reserve.

As a result of the disappointing harvest prospects, the Soviets are buying large amounts of foreign grain, mainly wheat, for delivery during the next year. Purchases from the US, Canada, and France should enable the Soviets to divert more of their domestic grain to the livestock sector, fulfill most of their grain export commitments, and guarantee enough wheat of milling quality for their flour industry. [redacted]

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THE NETHERLANDS: The Liberal and three confessional parties have agreed to form a minority government under Prime Minister Barend Biesheuvel, but a return to political stability must await the outcome of elections in November.

Formateur Biesheuvel managed to organize a four-party government on 8 August, three weeks after the defection of a fifth partner brought down his original majority coalition. The new cabinet will be supported shakily by some 74 of the 150 members of the lower house, but it may be able to count on a few additional votes from right-wing splinter groups.

Hard bargaining attended formation of the new coalition. The Liberals reluctantly dropped their call for government intervention by 1 November, failing a voluntary agreement on wage and price restraint. The three religious parties, despite their poor showing in recent polls, acceded to elections in November, rather than early 1973.

Between now and the elections, Biesheuvel will attempt to push his 1973 budget through parliament and to reach an agreement on wage and price policy for next year. His prospects for success are not good. On such issues as control of inflation and defense spending, the national interest is likely to be subordinated to intense maneuvering by all parties for electoral advantage.

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UGANDA: Growing tribal unrest in the army poses a threat to President Amin's government.

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[redacted] a dispute in the army between Amin's Kakwa tribe and other tribes from his home district of West Nile has already resulted in several deaths and could easily precipitate large-scale violence. Officers from the disaffected tribes resent the growing dominance in the army of the relatively small Kakwa tribe.

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[redacted] Since Amin seized power in January 1971, he has more than doubled the number of Kakwa officers and enlisted men, making the tribe the second largest in the army. He also has stationed his fellow tribesmen in key units and installations.

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Under Amin the traditionally unruly army has become more seriously troubled by tribal, ethnic, and religious rivalries that have caused bloody clashes. Large numbers of experienced officers and non-commissioned officers have been killed or have fled the country, thereby further weakening discipline. Amin has exercised little control over the army; his erratic exercise of power has in fact heightened tensions.

Nonetheless, as long as Amin retains the support of the key units that were responsible for his successful coup, he probably will be able to hold on to power. These units are made up largely of Amin's fellow tribesmen. However, should they also suffer from tribal unrest or slip from his grasp, Amin would have great difficulty retaining control of the country.

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IRAQ: Kurdish nationalists are concerned that a two-year-old truce with the Baghdad government might break down.

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[redacted] relations between Barzani and Iraqi strongman Saddam Tikriti are beyond repair. There have been few armed incidents between the regime's forces and the rebels since the peace accord was signed in March 1970, but mutual distrust and plotting have continued unabated.

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At the moment, concerted action by either side does not appear imminent. The remoteness of a real political solution, however, is endangering the shaky truce. [redacted]

NOTES

NORTH VIETNAM:

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shows a small area of flooding about ten miles north of Hai Duong along the Thuong River. Several breaches are evident in one section of dike, and water is overflowing a number of other sections. The area, located just south of the Kep - Hon Gai railroad, is extremely low and is subject to annual flooding. Nearby dikes clearly show the marks of repair from last year's flood, and it seems likely that the observed breaches were caused partly by the undermining effects of the 1971 floods. A bomb crater is visible in one dike in the vicinity, but none of the breaches is near the crater.

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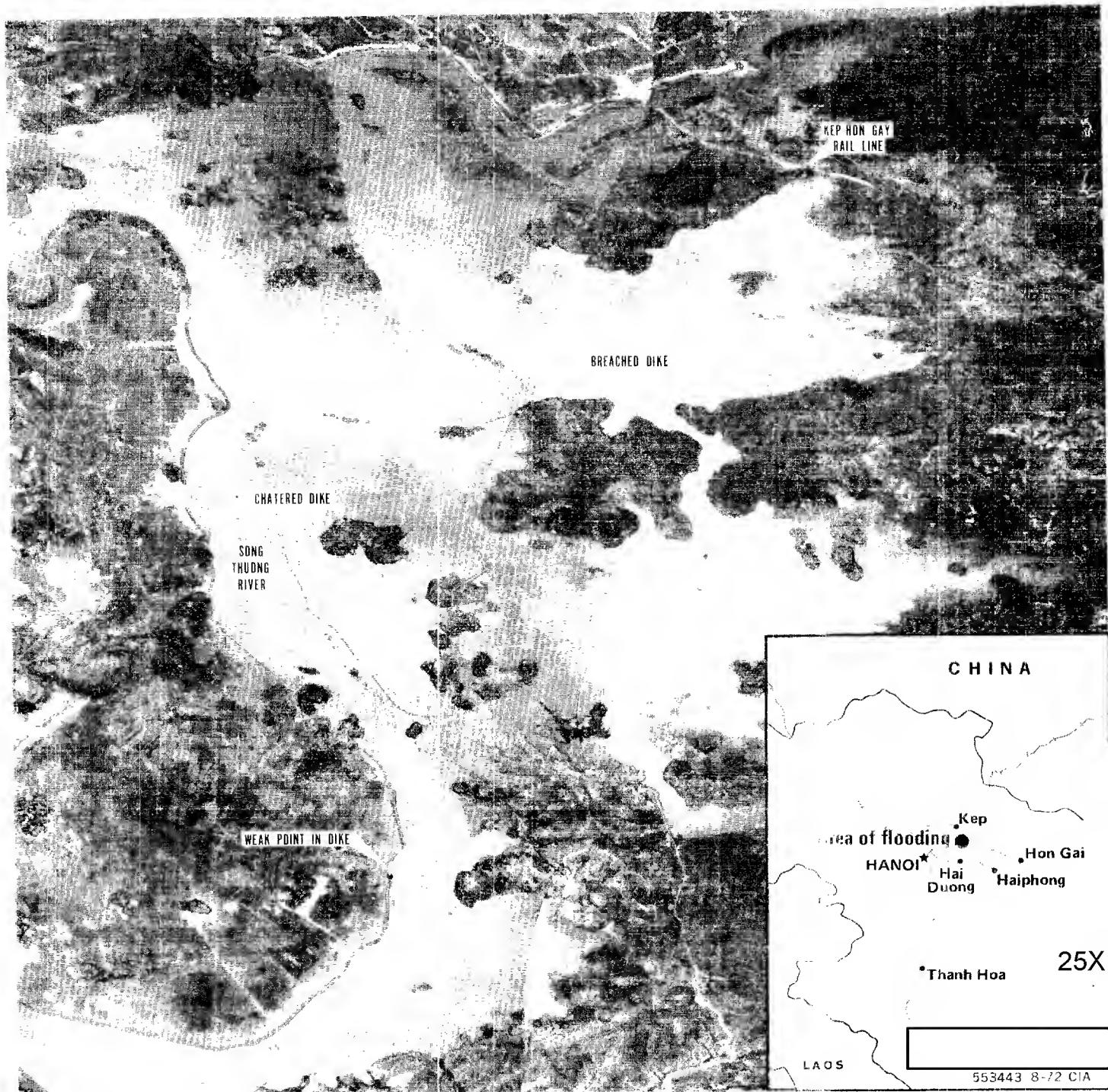
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BOLIVIA: Continuing its efforts to attract foreign investment, the Banzer government apparently has decided to compensate investors in the Mina Matilde Corporation at a level that they probably will find acceptable. La Paz plans to offer \$13.4 million to US Steel and Philips Brothers for the zinc mine nationalized in 1971 by the previous Torres administration. The US Government has agreed to encourage the investors to accept this proposal before the next negotiating session scheduled for later this month. The payment is to be made in cash, with the US Government helping to arrange financing for \$11.4 million.

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